

Message Text

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ACTION ACDA-19

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

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FM AMEMBASSY VIENNA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 684

SECDEFWASHDC

INFO USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

USNMR SHAPE

USCINCEUR

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MBFR NEGOTIATIONS

FROM US REP MBFR

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, NATO

SUBJECT: MBFR NEGOTIATIONS: AD HOC GROUP MEETING, NOVEMBER 21, 1973

SUMMARY: AD HOC GROUP MADE FINAL MINOR CHANGES ON STATEMENT OF US REP TO BE DELIVERED IN PLENARY NOVEMBER 22 AND SLIGHTLY MODIFIED SUGGESTED DEPT PRESS GUIDANCE (SEPTTEL FOR TEXT). SEVERAL ALLIED REPS NOTED THAT PRESS WOULD ASSUME FROM LENGTH OF PLENARY AND TIMING THAT ALLIED PROPOSAL PRESENTED AND WOULD MADE ENQUIRIES AND FELT THAT PRESS GUIDANCE SHOULD THEREFORE BE MORE FORTHCOMING. IT WAS AGREED TO ADMIT TO HAVING PRESENTED SPECIFIC PROPOSAL. NETHERLANDS REP (QUARLES) REPORTED BILATERAL WITH SOVIET DELOFF KVITSINSKIY, WHO HINTED AT POSSIBLE EASTERN GIVE IN POSITIONS ON PHASING AND DEFERRAL AIR AND NUCLEAR ISSUES TO SECOND PHASE. END

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SUMMAR6.

1. BILATERALS. CANADIAN REP REPORTED CONVERSATION WITH SOVIET DELOFF KVITSINSKIY IN WHICH LATTER HAD REITERATED SOVIET OPPOSITION TO CONCEPT OF COMMON CEILING AND SUGGESTED AGREEMENT PERMITTING DISPARITY OF 50,000 MIGHT BE ACCEPTABLE. HE REITERATED INSISTENCE ON INCLUSION OF AIR FORCES AND BUNDESWEHR IN FIRST STAGE, SAYING THAT SECOND PHASE MIGHT BE TOO LONG AND MIGHT NEVER BE REACHED. HE CLAIMED THAT UK STATEMENT'S FIGURES FOR SOVIET FORCES ENTIRELY INACCURATE; SOVIET MILITARY HAD LAUGHED AT THEM BUT WOULD NOT REVEAL TRUE FIGURES.

2. BELGIAN REP (ADIAENSSEN) REPORTED CONTACT WITH DGR REP (OESER) WHO SAID LINKAGE BETWEEN PHASES HAD TO BE CERTAIN, REFERRING TO PROBLEM OF BUNDESWEHR. HE ALSO INDICATED THAT ONE REASON FOR APPARENCE HASTE ON EASTERN SIDE WAS CONCERN OVER EUROPEAN DEFENSE COOPERATION. BELGIAN REP ASSURED HIM ANY SUCH COOPERATION WOULD TAKE PLACE IN CONTEXT OF DETENTE.

3. NETHERLANDS REP REPORTED ON A LUNCH WITH KVITSINSKIY, WHO ARGUED THERE WAS ALREADY AN EAST-WEST BALANCE IN FORCES AND THAT DEALING WITH SELECTED DISPARITIES WOULD DESTROY THAT BALANCE. NETHERLANDS REP ARGUED AGAINST COMPLICATING AGREEMENTS BY INCLUSION OF EXTRA ELEMENTS, WHICH MIGHT BE ADDRESSED LATER. KVITSINSKIY GAVE STANDARD PRESENTATION OF EASTERN INSISTENCE ON TREATING ALL NATIONAL FORCES, AIR AND NUCLEAR, BUT ALSO INTIMATED THAT ISSUES OF AIR, NUCLEAR, AND NATIONAL FORCES MIGHT BE HANDLED AT A LATER STAGE IF THERE WAS A CLEAR LINK TO THAT STAGE. US DEPREP RECALLED THAT GROMYKO HAD TOLD FRG FORMIN SCHEEL THAT HE DID NOT HAVE A CLOSED MIND AS TO ORDER IN WHICH ELEMENTS WERE ADDRESSED. HE FURTHER NOTED THAT REPORTS OF BILATERALS INDICATED POSSIBLE EASTERN GIVE ON ISSUES OF COMMON CEILING AND ON AIR, NUCLEAR, AND NATIONAL FORCES ISSUES. GIVE MIGHT NOT ACTUALLY EXIST, BUT INDICATIONS RECEIVED SHOULD ENCOURAGE ALLIES TO KEEP PUSHING FOR THEIR PROGRAM OF PHASES. FRG REP SUGGESTED THAT EASTERN EXPLICATIONS OF THE SOVIET PROPOSAL HAD BEEN LESS EMPHATIC ABOUT PARTICIPANTS IN FIRST, SYMBOLIC, STAGE THAN ABOUT OTHER STAGES AND THAT THEY MIGHT MAKE THIS A US-SOVIET FIRST STAGE AS A CONCESSION. THE BELGIAN REP SAID THAT KVITSINSKIY HAD TOLD HIM SOVIET PROPOSAL WAS WRITTEN IN LIGHT OF NATO POSITIONS. US DEPREP NOTED THAT KVITSINSKIY HAD PREVIOUSLY SAID SOVIET POSITION WAS AGREED ONLY AT THE END OF OCTOBER.

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4. OUTLINE AND PRESENTATION OF PROPOSALS. CHAIRMAN ANNOUNCED NAC HAD FORMALLY APPROVED TEXT OF THE OUTLINE OF PROPOSALS FOR PRESENTATION NOV 22. CHANGES IN THE AHG TEXT MADE BY THE COUNCIL WERE REVIEWED. AFTER DISCUSSION, THERE WAS AGREEMENT TO DROP THE WORD QUOTE PROVISIONS UNQUOTE IN PARA 9B ON GROUNDS OF REDUNDANCY AHG THEN REVIEWED AN AMENDED VERSION OF US PRESENTATION COVERING THE OUTLINE, TO BE GIVEN AS A STATEMENT ON NOV 22. THERE WAS SOME DISCUSSION OF ADVISABILITY OF RESTORING REFERENCE IN THE STATEMENT

TO WITHDRAWAL TO THEIR HOMELANDS AND NON-REPLACEMENT OF WITHDRAWN
US AND SOVIET TROOPS, WHICH HAD BEEN DELETED IN THE OUTLINE BY
COUNCIL. NETHERLANDS REP NOTED THAT BRINGING THE POINT INTO THE
STATEMENT WOULD MAKE IT EASIER TO REFER TO IN LATER. BELGIAN DEPREP
(WILLOT) NOTED THAT LANGUAGE USED DID NOT EXCLUDE DISBANDMENT OF
SOVIET TROOPS. ITALIAN REP ARGUED THAT AT LEAST AN EXPLICIT
REFERENCE TO PROHIBITION OF REPLACEMENT WAS NEEDED. SHAPE REP
(GRIFFIN) ARGUED THAT NO SUCH MENTION SHOULD BE MADE IN REFERENCE
TO US TROOPS, AS IT WOULD TEND TO PREJUDICE STATUS OF REFORGER
EXERCISES. US REP AGREED, AND FURTHER STATED THAT BECAUSE OF
GENERAL CHARACTER OF PROPOSED WORDING, IT WOULD ALSO BE UNWISE TO
MAKE SUCH A STATEMENT ABOUT SOVIET TROOPS. CONSENSUS WAS REACHED
ON OMITTING ANY SUCH REFERENCES WHEN US REP POINTED OUT THAT ON A
BILATERAL BASIS, ALLIED DELS COULD NOT HAVE AN OBVIOUS AND IMPLICIT
PROHIBITION ON REPLACEMENT OF WITHDRAWN FORCES, WITH
EXCEPTIONS FOR EXERCISES AND ROTATION. AHG MADE SOME FURTHER
EDITORIAL CHANGES, AND THEN APPROVED TEXT (SEPTEL). US DEL
DISTRIBUTED A DRAFT ON TACTICAL NEXT STEPS TO FOLLOW AFTER PROPOSAL
WAS PRESENTED. GROUP AGREED TO CONSIDER IT IN ITS NEXT SESSION ON
NOV 22. HUMES

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